

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Hats Off to Habitat

Lost amid all the publicity surrounding the RecPlex, senior center, and Tremont rezoning projects at Town Meeting was the Duxbury Habitat for Humanity committee.

Over the past months, this hardy group of volunteers has been working behind the scenes to map out and build support for the Habitat project. We salute their efforts.

Duxbury has sometimes -- fairly, and often, unfairly -- been referred to as elitist and exclusive with a lack of ethnic, housing, and socio-economic diversity.

Monday night local citizens got a chance to change that image, if only on a small scale.

The group's co-chairman, Ken Meyers, reminded voters at town meeting that there are at least 300 households in town with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 and that the town already has more than its share of \$600,000 homes.

The message underscored the charitable nature of the gift of town-owned land. With the unanimous Town Meeting vote, the group will move forward with their plans to build a modest home and select a Duxbury family who will be rigorously screened, meet income guidelines as well as prove they can be socially and financially responsible. Most likely the new homeowners will be people who now rent.

The family selected will assist local volunteers in building the dwelling on Tremont Street with a project which should take an estimated nine months to complete.

We commend the voters of Duxbury for approving the land gift and hope many citizens will pitch in when the call for volunteer laborers goes out this spring.

This is truly a gift that will keep on giving.